

Official Minutes for Webb County Commissioners Court Meeting

Monday, July 28, 2003 at 1:30 P.M.

- Item No. 1 Call to order by Judge Louis H. Bruni
Let it be remembered that a regular meeting of the Webb County
Commissioners Court was held at 1:30 p.m. at the regular meeting place with
the following members present to wit:

Louis H. Bruni	County Judge
Jerry Vasquez	Commissioner, Pct. 1
Judith Gutierrez	Commissioner, Pct. 2
Felix Velasquez	Commissioner, Pct. 3
David Cortez	Commissioner, Pct. 4

Thus constituting a quorum, the Commissioners Court proceeded to act upon
the Agenda as posted in the meeting notice of the 25 of July 2003. Present
also were Ms. Nora Elia Prado, Deputy County Clerk representing Mrs. Margie
Ramirez Ibarra, Ex-officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court, various officers
and others interested in the business of the Court.

- Item No. 2 Roll Call – Margie Ramirez Ibarra, Webb County Clerk

- Item No. 3 Invocation – Judge Louis H. Bruni

- Item No. 4 Pledge of Allegiance – led by Judge Louis H. Bruni

- Item No. 5 Approval of minutes – July 14, 2003

Cmr. Vasquez, Cmr. Gutierrez and Cmr. Velasquez had no corrections,
additions or deletions. Judge Bruni stated that Item No. 13 should state that
the motion passed 3-2 with himself and Cmr. Cortez voting against. Cmr.
Cortez concurred with Judge Bruni's correction.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve minutes with corrections stated. Cmr.
Velasquez seconded the motion.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to move up Item No. 7, No. 8, No. 9 and No. 10.
Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 7 Communications

Cmr. Vasquez, Cmr. Gutierrez and Cmr. Velasquez had no communications.

Cmr. Cortez advised Court that he was honored to have local veterans groups present here today due there were items on the agenda that would affect those present. Judge Bruni thanked veterans present for attending today's meeting and for the sacrifices that they have made for their country.

Item No. 8 Public Comment

Mr. Richard Rossell was present to address the court in regards to Item No. 9. He stated that he spoke for the silent majority of Webb County veterans. He stated that Mr. Cantu has displayed a consistent pattern of getting his point across by pushing and pulling. He stated that he referred a lady who represented an organization that assisted Korean veterans to speak with Mr. Cantu and was later told by that lady that Mr. Cantu insulted her. He stated that Mr. Cantu had a bullish character with a superiority complex.

Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, advised Court that Mr. Malakoff, Mr. Cantu's attorney, is requesting that the Court table Item No. 9 and that they allow Mr. Cantu to review the complaints filed against him. Mr. Ramirez stated that comments cannot be limited but the Court can stop repetitive comments or can accept Mr. Malakoff's request and table item. He stated that court must give Mr. Cantu an opportunity to speak in open session and cannot go into executive session if Mr. Cantu objects.

Ms. Francisca Martinez addressed Court regarding Item No. 9 (Spanish). She stated that she is the mother of five veteran sons and the great-grandmother of two currently in Iraq. She stated that Mr. Cantu has always helped her and her family with anything that they needed and that he has done a great job.

Mr. Jose L. Reyna addressed the Court regarding Item No. 9. He stated that Mr. Cantu has done a lot for the veterans of Webb County and has a lot of heart for his work. He stated that there have been some conflicts but that he has done a great job and that his credentials speak for themselves. He stated that there is no one better to help a veteran than a veteran.

Mr. Jose Rodriguez addressed the Court regarding Item No. 9. He stated that he represented the American Legion Post No. 9 and that when it was time to appoint a Veterans Services Officer a while back, his group of

approximately 240 veterans voted for Mr. Cantu. He stated that he is very helpful and answers any questions that veterans or their families might have.

Mr. Jose Munoz addressed the Court regarding Item No. 10. He stated that he has met Mr. Cantu only once and does not feel that it would be fair to take sides at this time.

Mr. Adolfo Gonzalez addressed the Court in regards to Item No. 10. He stated that he is the chairperson for the Laredo Veterans Coalition, contrary to recent newspaper publications. He also stated that the Court should also look into providing office space for local veterans groups in a centralized location. He stated that there is a need for a centralized office for veterans groups and that this would help in maintaining the upkeep of these offices. He advised Court that he supported the acquisition of property in regards to Item No. 10.

Mr. Richard Geissler was present to address Item No. 9, No. 10 and No. 14. He advised Court that Dr. Hector Farias was not the chairperson or an officer of the Laredo Veterans Coalition and that the flags that were in question at a previous meeting were purchased with monies from Cmr. Urdiales salary that was donated to them. He stated that the decision regarding the Veterans Service Officer should be made by the Laredo Veterans Coalition since they are the ones that know what that position requires. He stated that in regards to Item No. 10, the Farias family has offered to donate a pre-Civil War building for a Veterans Museum. He stated that he does not want building to be demolished when it could serve a good purpose. He also stated that in regards to Item No. 14, the exemption should be raised to \$75,000.00.

Mr. Anthony Peterson addressed the Court in regards to Item No. 9. He stated that Mr. Cantu has done a great job for the veterans of Webb County and does not understand Cmr. Vasquez or Dr. Farias motivation for a this action.

Mr. Sergio Martinez addressed Court in regards to Item No. 9. He stated that he is a veteran and was upset when he read in the Laredo Morning Times about Mr. Cantu's possible termination. He stated that he has helped many veterans. He advised Court not to let anyone bully them around. He stated that he has not had need for any of the services provided by the County but believes that Mr. Cantu would be the one to turn to for assistance.

Item No. 9

Discussion and possible action regarding the employment, re-assignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of the Veteran Service Officer. [Closed session requested pursuant to Texas Open Meetings

Act 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney) and 551.074 (Personnel Matters)].

Cmr. Vasquez stated that he stood behind his statements made to the press and wanted to know why Mr. Cantu was criticizing the process that was used to hire him. He stated that he doesn't want to terminate Mr. Cantu just to terminate him but wanted to make sure that the best-qualified person held the position. He stated that this item is word for word the same as the one submitted by Cmr. Cortez in regards to the Road and Bridge Superintendent who is still employed there. He stated that the veterans should have an input as to who will be the Veterans Service Officer and should submit 3-5 final applicants from which the County would choose. He stated that he has never been one to be bullied and would not have placed item on agenda if he knew it would create such controversy.

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to request RFQ's Request for Qualifications for the position of Veterans Service Officer and allow the Laredo Veterans Coalition to review the applications and submit recommendations. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion for discussion.

Cmr. Gutierrez inquired if it would be proper to request proposals if evaluations have been set for September 2003 at previous meeting. She stated that it was important that the court take into consideration the thoughts of the veterans and their input. She stated that an evaluation must be done but the court must decide whether to evaluate or request proposals for the Veterans Service Officer. Cmr. Velasquez thanked the veterans for their presence and their comments on this item. He stated this issue surfaced at a previous meeting and the Court had agreed to evaluate Mr. Cantu with the other department heads. He stated that the evaluation should be done in September as the court had previously agreed. Cmr. Cortez stated that if this position would be opened up to the public, then all other department head positions should be opened to the public as well. He stated that he has received very positive comments about Mr. Cantu and would like to extend Mr. Cantu's contract.

Cmr. Gutierrez withdrew her second. Cmr. Vasquez's motioned died for lack of second.

Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, advised Court that the Veterans Service Officer is appointed by Commissioners Court and serves at the pleasure of the Court but does not have a contract.

Cmr. Cortez motioned to have Mr. Cantu continue as Webb County Veterans Service Officer. Motion died for lack of second.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to evaluate Mr. Cantu in September and continue taking comments until his evaluation. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Cmr. Gutierrez stated that Mr. Cantu's evaluation should be done as with any other department head.

Motion carried 3-2 with Cmr. Vasquez and Cmr. Cortez voting against.

5 minute Recess (2:31 p.m. to 2:42 p.m.)

Item No. 8 Public Comments

Mr. Anastacio Barrera was present to address Item No. 9. He stated that he was against Mr. Cantu and believes that Mr. Cantu is a very negative person and has not helped him in any way when he was in need.

Mr. Luis Diaz De Leon was present to address Item No. 10. He stated that he felt strongly that there should be a common site to address all veterans' concerns and to have centralized offices for veterans groups. He stated that this would hopefully stop the infighting between the veterans groups. He also wanted to wish Mr. Victor Saucedo a belated Happy Birthday. Mr. Saucedo celebrated his 96th birthday yesterday.

Item No. 10 Discussion and possible action to acquire property in Laredo downtown area for use as Veterans' Museum, and other associated veteran uses.

Cmr. Vasquez stated that he has spoken with several veterans regarding the RFP's (Request for Proposals) for land for a possible veterans museum and stated that he believed that it was time that this was done. He stated that he received a letter from the Farias Family regarding some land in downtown Laredo.

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to request RFP's (Request for Proposals) on property acquisition for a veteran's museum. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Cmr. Velasquez stated that he hoped that there would be someone willing to donate property. Cmr. Cortez stated that this was a step in the right direction to honor veterans and believes that County should work with the City of Laredo to try and rent out some space nearby the Veterans Health Center or allow the veterans some space in the TexMex building that the County is acquiring. Cmr. Gutierrez stated that a plan to build a museum to display veterans' memorabilia has grown to include office space for veterans

groups. Judge Bruni stated that he has received an offer for the County to purchase land located at 409 San Bernardo (appraised at \$441,000) for \$100,000. Mr. Adolfo Gonzalez stated that it would be a hassle to get all the veterans groups to agree but wants to come up with a solution to benefit everyone involved. He stated that it would be ideal to have the veterans groups located in the same office building to offer better services. Cmr. Cortez inquired as to what if a property is offered that is not located in downtown Laredo. Cmr. Gutierrez stated that there is a possible monument location at Matamoros.

Cmr. Vasquez motioned to request RFP's (Request for Proposals) for the downtown area. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion failed 3-2 with Judge Bruni, Cmr. Velasquez and Cmr. Cortez voting against.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to request RFP's (Request for Proposals) for countywide property. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 11 Discussion and possible action to establish procedures for reviewing and awarding third-party contracts for FY 2003-3004 budget.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item with correction of 3004 to 2004. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion with discussion.

Cmr. Gutierrez state that she has received calls from current Third Party contract holders in regards to the dates for their presentations. Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, stated that third party funding has constitutional limitations and is to assist the County in doing something that County can do but chooses to contract out. He suggested a detailed policy to include the following:

1. Include information as to who application must be submitted to.
2. Include information as to where application must be sent.
3. Include a set deadline for all documentation required
4. Include what exactly must be included with the application.
5. Clarify if a screening committee would be used.
6. Determine the total budget to be used for third party funding.

Judge Bruni stated that the City Council would have third party applications evaluated by a committee that would then bring recommendations to the Council. He recommended that the County do the same thing. Cmr.

Gutierrez stated that this had been discussed before and believes that this process should be followed. She stated that there are two revenue sources for third party funding, Hotel/Motel funds and the General Fund. She stated that all third parties must submit an audit for last year to the County Attorney's office in order to qualify and that the city model be used. Mr. Raul Casso, County Judge's Chief of Staff, stated that the County Judge's budget was ready to be filed and would include a 13 ½ cut in funding. Cmr. Velasquez stated that he agreed with Cmr. Gutierrez and Judge Bruni regarding having a committee recommend funding for 3rd party application and stated that a financial report should be submitted by 3rd party applicants but also recommended a workshop for presentation and questions that the Court may have for 3rd party applicants. Judge Bruni stated that monies must be spent in accordance with State Law. Cmr. Cortez recommended having the Cost Containment Committee also assist in third party funding committee.

Cmr. Cortez motioned to appoint the members of the Cost Containment Committee to the Third Party Funding Committee. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 12 Discussion and possible action to approve the final inter-local agreement with the City of Laredo for the North Laredo Central Park and the disbursement of the \$625,000 reserved for the county park in Precinct 3 to the City of Laredo for the acquisition of properties needed to build the North Laredo Central Park. [Account # 678-8103-8710-3 and 695-6004-8710-3 Park Development Precinct 3, Series 2001 and 2002]

Cmr. Velasquez stated that he has been working with City Councilman Belmares on the acquisition of the necessary property.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion for discussion.

Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, stated that this was a standard agreement and that the County money (\$625,000.00) would be used solely for property acquisition. He stated that the City would provide an annual account of the monies used and prepare the master plan. He stated that the City would provide \$200,000.00 for land acquisition. Cmr. Velasquez stated that he would like for the elementary and middle schools to participate in the naming of the park by holding contests. Mr. Ramirez stated that name of the

park would not be changed for 10 years and that the County would need to purchase own insurance for property. He stated that the City would be responsible for the maintenance and daily operations of the park. He stated that park revenues would be 50% for park improvements and 50% for operational costs. Judge Bruni recommended not changing the name for 20 years versus the current 10 years. Cmr. Velasquez thanked court and stated that he would request an additional \$500,000.00 for park improvements from future bond monies. He stated that the park would be located north of Shiloh, east of McPherson and behind Danny's Restaurant. He stated that it would be an initial 20-25 acres with a goal of 50 acres. Mr. Homero Ramirez stated that he would check on the cost of the insurance to the county and report to the court when that information is available.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 13 Discussion and possible action to clarify the Third Party Funding for the Webb County Regional Food Bank for the year ended 9-30-03. The total funding should be \$15,000; \$5,000 as originally approved in the budget plus the additional \$10,000 approved in February by the Commissioners Court. [Account # 001-0110-7454 Laredo Webb County Food Bank]

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to allocate \$15,000 to the Food Bank. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Cmr. Velasquez stated that the funding source would be General Fund Third Party Funding. Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, stated that these monies had been included in contract.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

- Item No. 14 Discussion and possible action to increase the homestead tax exemption amount for one residence for persons 65 years old and over from \$36,000 to \$50,000 (Deferred Item).

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Cmr. Velasquez stated that this would affect the budget by \$277,895.00 but anticipated recovery of these funds by privatizing the golf course. Cmr.

Gutierrez stated that it was a good idea but that the disabled should be included and that the privatization should be discussed before relying on it to cover these monies. Cmr. Velasquez stated that there is a safety net for this and believes that monies from departments under budget could also be used. Cmr. Gutierrez stated that this could not be counted on every year and would like to look for revenue source for this. Cmr. Vasquez shared Cmr. Gutierrez's concerns and would like for the monies to be found in the budget. Cmr. Cortez stated that there are several areas that could be looked at but needed a timetable to advise the Appraisal District. Mr. Carlos Villarreal, Court Executive Administrator, stated that this item needs to be acted on today as values have been certified. Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, recommended motion to be made to adopt resolution and order.

Cmr. Velasquez amended motion to adopt resolution and order. Cmr. Cortez amended his second.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 15 Discussion and possible action to provide a \$15,000 homestead tax exemption amount for disabled taxpayers.

Cmr. Velasquez stated that this would affect the budget by \$65,060. Ms. Patricia Barrera, County Tax Assessor Collector, stated that in order to qualify, the individual must be designated as disabled by the Social Security or the veterans department.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to approve item and adopt resolution. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Item No. 6 Approval of bills, payroll and monthly reports

Ms. Delia Perales, County Treasurer, presented reports on Cash Balances, Investments, Checks Issued and Sales Tax.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to approve the Treasurer's reports as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0 by unanimous consent.

Ms. Perales advised Court that her department is now responsible for the reconciliation of 79 bank accounts (38 local accounts and 41 investment

accounts). She stated that they are in the process of reconciling these accounts and will present them to the court upon completion.

Cmr. Vasquez advised Court that he would not return this afternoon after the break and wanted to advise them that Mr. Chestnutt, Golf Course, requested that his item be tabled.

Media Break (3:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

Item No. 16 Discussion and possible action on the approval to add the following forfeiture vehicle to the Webb County Constable Precinct 1 Department:

a) 1997 Ford Pick-up Truck VIN# 1FTDX1761VKC99703

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

Item No. 17 Discussion and possible action on the approval of a line item transfer in the amount of \$1,500 from account #001-2502-6014 (Equipment Rental) to account #001-2502-6403 (Repair & Maintenance Vehicles).

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

Item No. 18 Discussion and possible action to enter into a computer software support services agreement (real estate, personal property tax administration, billing, collection and distribution system application software support services) with Easy Access Inc., for the Tax Assessor Collector's AS 400 computer for a twelve month period beginning September 9, 2003, and renewable for one additional twelve month period upon acceptance of an annual agreement at a cost of NINE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND THIRTY FOUR DOLLARS (\$9,834.00) and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents. [Account #001-0500-6402 Repair & and Maintenance Equipment Requested by Tax Assessor Collector]

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 19 Discussion and possible action to enter into Business Agreements with the following providers:

Blue Cross Blue Shield	Trans America Assurance Company
Texas Association of Counties	New York Life
Review Med L.P.	Laredo Examiners
SHIPS	Professional Counseling Center
Laurel Insurance & Associates	McGriff, Seibels & Williams of Tex., Inc.
National Family Care	CBG The Benefit Group, Inc.
Sun Life Assurance Co. of Canada	Unum Provident
Ward North America	

in order to comply with the "Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information" (i.e. Privacy Rules) pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and authorizing the Webb County Judge to execute all relevant documents. (Requested by Risk Management)

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to table item. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, stated that this would not change services but was necessary for compliance with HIPAA regulations.

Cmr. Velasquez withdrew his motion to table.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 20 Discussion and possible action to accept 57 rights-of-way, out of Ranchos Penitas West Subdivision, 16 rights-of-way, out of Ranchitos IV Los Minerales Subdivision, 4 rights-of-way, out of Ranchitos IV Los Minerales Annex Subdivision, 4 rights-of-way, out of the Antonio Santos Subdivision and 2 rights-of-way, out of San Carlos Subdivision (San Enrique Subdivision), Phase I, and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 21 Discussion and possible action to enter into a (3) three year agreement (July 1, 2003 through April 30, 2005) with Texas Engineering Extension Service -TEEX, State Homeland Security Grant Program, in the amount of TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR DOLLARS (\$250,724.00) for the purchase of personal protective equipment, equipment providing for mitigation and remediation of explosive devices, equipment providing search and rescue capability, communication equipment, detection equipment, decontamination equipment, security equipment, logistical support equipment and incident response vehicles and authorizing the County Judge to sign all relevant documents.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion with discussion.

Cmr. Velasquez inquired about future county obligations in regards to cash matches. Mr. Juan Vargas, Economic Development, stated that monies for fiscal year 2004-2005 may be larger but there is no in kind or cash match for this agreement.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 22 Discussion and possible action on the approval of the following line item transfers:

FROM:

Account #001-1101-5602	Local Mileage	\$500.00
Account #001-1101-6014	Equipment Rental	\$1,100.00
Account #001-1101-6022	Professional Services	\$1,200.00
Account #001-1101-6028	Witness Expenditures	\$900.00
	TOTAL:	\$3,700.00

TO:

Account #001-1101-6205	Material/Supplies	\$1,200.00
Account #001-1101-6011	Training/Education	\$2,500.00
	TOTAL:	\$3,700.00

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 23 Discussion and possible action regarding the \$1,530,000 Certificates of Participation Interests of the Owners Thereof in Certain Obligations of Webb County, Texas, due under its Lease Purchase Agreement with PBCF Webb Texas, Inc. dated as of July 15, 1997 and any matters incident thereto. [Closed Session requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Sec. 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)]

Item discussed in Executive Session.

- Item No. 24 Discussion and possible action to authorize the County Auditor to allow line item transfers within the operational budget of department #1050 Judicial General Operations for the remainder of this current fiscal year so that expenses related to indigent defense can be paid timely.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted with discussion. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Mr. Rafael Perez, Chief Deputy Auditor, stated that they are requesting more discretion and that line item transfers would not exceed amounts budgeted. Cmr. Gutierrez stated that Court must be kept informed in regards to line item transfers. Mr. Perez stated that there was a total of \$683,500 budgeted and \$567,169 expended with approximately \$50,000 pending for payment. He stated that his office would notify court before threshold is met. He is requesting the Court's approval to transfer monies within the department's budget.

Cmr. Velasquez withdrew second. Cmr. Gutierrez withdrew motion stating that all departments must come before court for line item transfers.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to direct auditor to follow normal procedure. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 25 Discussion and possible action to increase the budget in the amount of \$9,000 from Fund Balance. [Account #001-1120-6014 Equipment Rental]

Item No. 26 Discussion and possible action to increase the budget in the amount of \$6,000 from Fund Balance. [Account #001-1120-6005 Postage)

Mr. Jorge Flores requested that Court table Item No. 25 and No. 26.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to table Item No. 25 and No. 26. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

Item No. 27 Discussion and possible action on the approval of a line item transfer in the amount \$2,300 from account #001-0700-6022 (Professional Services) to account #001-0700-5601 (Administrative Travel).

Ms. Patricia Barrera, County Tax Assessor Collector, stated that this was necessary to attend a seminar in August that had not been budgeted for.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

Item No. 28 Discussion and possible action to request a contract time extension for the Texas Water Development Board Project #GO5500 Larga Vista Wastewater Collection System EDAP Project until December 31, 2003. This contract time extension will not be at any cost to the County.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

Item No. 29 Discussion and possible action on the approval of line item transfers as follows:

FROM:
Account #001-0106-6011 Training & Ed. \$1,000.00

TO:
Account #001-0106-6204 Fuel & Lubs. \$1,000.00

FROM:
Account #001-0106-6703 Landfill Fees \$ 650.00

TO:
Account #001-0106-6224 Apparatus & Tools \$ 650.00

Comr. Velasquez motioned to approve item as submitted. Comr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Comr. Vasquez not present.

Item No. 30 Discussion and possible action on the approval of a line item transfer in the amount of \$58,949 as follows:

FROM:
Account #001-6001-5601 Adm. Travel \$ 1,081
Account #001-6001-6007 Dues & Memberships \$50
Account #001-6001-6014 Equipment Rental \$2,500
Account #001-6001-6096 Lease Purchase Prin. \$20,000
Account #001-6001-6201 Utilities \$20,000
Account #001-6001-6202 Uniforms \$318
Account #001-6001-6401 Building Maintenance \$15,000
TOTAL: \$58,949

TO:
Account #001-6001-6205 Material & Supplies \$58,949

Comr. Velasquez motioned to approve item with corrections. Comr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Mr. Rafael Perez, Chief Deputy Auditor, stated that there is only \$1,236.00 available in Equipment Rental and that Administrative Travel, Dues and Memberships and Uniforms were at 100%. Mr. Chestnutt, Golf Course, stated that the monies are to rebuild #12. He stated that payment was stopped on the fence that had been ordered and that bids are going to be requested. Mr. Carlos Villarreal, Court Executive Administrator, stated that he has met with Mr. Arechiga regarding the fence and is working on getting a better deal.

Motion carried 4-0 with Comr. Vasquez not present.

Item No. 31 Discussion and possible action to fill the following slots, effective July 29, 2003:

Slot #1527 (Maintenance Worker I) full-time at \$8.25 per hour
Slot #1528 (Maintenance Worker I) full-time at \$8.25 per hour
Slot #1232 (Maintenance Worker II) full-time at \$8.25 per hour
[Account # 001-6001-5001 Payroll]

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to approve item as submitted with discussion.
Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Mr. Chestnutt stated that two employees were terminated and one quit.

Motion carried 3-1 with Cmr. Cortez voting against and Cmr. Vasquez not present.

Item No. 32 Discussion and possible action on the appointment of one (1) Policy Council Community Representative and one (1) Alternate to the Webb County Head Start Policy Council Board.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Ms. Elisa Oliveros, Head Start Director, stated that Court must appoint one permanent representative and one alternate.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to appoint Judge Bruni as representative and Cmr. Gutierrez as alternate. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

Item No. 33 Discussion and possible action to purchase a modular building located at 3501 Eagle Pass known as Villa Alegre Head Start Center Classrooms 5 and 6. [Account #903-4207-8801 Capital Outlay]

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

Item No. 34 Discussion and possible action on the approval of a line item transfer in the amount of \$8,325 from account #903-4207-5608 (Travel) to account #903-4207-6401 (Center Repair).

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 35 Discussion and possible action to approve the Head Start Child and Adult Care Food Program Application for Fiscal Year 2003-2004 (September 1, 2003 through August 31, 2004).

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 36 Discussion and possible action on the approval of the following line item transfers:

FROM:
Account #001-1043-6011 Training & Education \$1,000.00
TO:
Account #001-1043-6402 Repair & Maintenance Equip. \$700.00
Account #001-1043-6403 Repair & Maintenance Vehicles \$300.00
TOTAL: \$1,000.00

FROM:
Account #001-1043-5601 Administrative Travel \$400.00
TO:
Account #001-1043-6005 Postage \$400.00

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 37 Discussion and possible action on the approval of a line item transfer in the amount of \$1,500 as follows:

FROM:
Account # 001-6002-6703 Landfill Fees \$1,500
TO:
Account #001-6002-6205 Material & Supplies \$500
Account #001-6002-6224 Minor Apparatus & Tools \$1,000
TOTAL: \$1,500

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Mr. Gutierrez advised Court that they needed to purchase two weed eaters to replace two that are out of commission.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 38 Discussion and possible action to issue "Certifications Regarding Compliance with Plat Requirements and the Connection of Utilities" to authorize utility connections to the following properties:

Connection(s) qualifying under Section 232.029 (i):

1. Lot 5, Block 20, Pueblo Nuevo Subdivision, (electricity-one dwelling only)
2. Lot 9, Block 13, Pueblo Nuevo Subdivision, (electricity-one dwelling only)

Connection(s) qualifying under Section 232.028 (a) and (b):

1. Lot 9 & 11, Block 85, Bruni Subdivision, (electricity, water, & gas – authorization to connect dwelling is contingent upon the disconnection and removal of existing mobile home. Connection is limited to one dwelling only).

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item excluding No. 1 under Section 232.029 (i). Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 39 Discussion and possible action to issue a "Certificate of No Plat Required" pursuant to the exemption provisions of the Webb County Subdivision Regulations under Section XVI, Subsection 1.A (2) to the following Tracts:

1. Verizon Wireless, Pico Road U. S. Cellular Tower Plat, located at 240 El Pico Road being a 1.0837 acre tract, more or less, out of and part of Portion 14; said tract is also know as Tract 17, of the un-platted subdivision known as Los Corralitos. The proposed plat of this tract is identified as Lot 1, Block 1, Pico Road U.S. Cellular Tower Plat.

Cmr. Cortez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Mr. Kerim Jacaman, Planning Department, stated that the properties sole use would be for a wireless tower. He stated that property would need to be platted if it were to be used for other purposes. Judge Bruni requested a memo from Planning Department regarding requirements for "Certificate of No Plat Required."

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 40 Discussion and possible action on the approval of the following line item transfers:

FROM:

Account #001-1102-6007	Dues & Membership	\$2,000.00
Account #001-1102-5601	Adm. Travel	\$1,000.00
	TOTAL:	\$3,000.00

TO:

Account #001-1102-6010	Books & Subscriptions	\$3,000.00
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FROM:

Account #001-1102-6011	Training & Education	\$1,000.00
Account #001-1102-6028	Witness & Exp.	\$325.00
Account #001-1102-6014	Equipment Rental	\$650.00
Account #001-1102-5601	Adm. Travel	\$2,000.00
	TOTAL:	\$3,975.00

TO:

Account #001-1102-6022	Prof. Service	\$3,975.00
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Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 41 Discussion and possible action to award/reject bid #2003-39 "One 29 Passenger School Bus" for the Head Start Program. [Account #903-4207-8801 Capital Outlay]

Mr. Eloy Ramirez, County Purchasing Agent, advised Court that two bids were received (Longhorn Bus Sales and One Stop Bus Stop). He recommended accepting bid from One Stop Bus Stop as lowest bidder at \$40,848.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to accept Purchasing Department's recommendation. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 42 Discussion and possible action on the approval to increase the cellular phone minutes for Constable, Pct. 1, Raul Hinojosa, from 500 to 1,000 minutes.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to table Item No. 42. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 43 Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to purchase ten (10) complete computers through State of Texas Contract (Texas Government Code Chapter 2155-2157- satisfies requirements of competitive bids) from IBM, Inc. in the amount of \$10,224.40 for the Head Start Program. [Account #903-4207-6224-Technology Enhancement]

Cmr. Cortez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 44 Discussion and possible action to authorize the Purchasing Agent to purchase and lease a Two-Way Communication System from Autophone of Laredo, Inc. (Nextel) in the amount of \$1,050.00 for fourteen (14) hand-held units and \$559.86 per month (AIRTIME) for the Facilities Department.

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion with discussion.

Mr. Eloy Ramirez, County Purchasing Agent, stated that funding source would be Maintenance and Equipment Repair.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to move up Item No. 48. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 48 Discussion and possible action to approve and accept the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Cooperative Agreement #ATC03000280 (This agreement is for the operation of the GANG PREVENTION PROGRAM known as G.R.E.A.T.) in the amount of \$114,611.00.

Mr. Rafael Perez, Chief Deputy Auditor, stated that this was grant monies and there would no cash match. Cmr. Gutierrez stated that she was concerned about declining assistance through the grant in the future.

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to approve item as submitted. Cmr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

Mr. Homero Ramirez, County Attorney, advised Court that there would be no need to go into Executive Session to discuss Item No. 45, No. 46 and No. 47. Mr. Carlos Villarreal, Court Executive Administrator, requested that Item No. 45 be tabled until further information is received.

- Item No. 45 Discussion and possible action regarding claim by El Cenizo Community Center for property damage and burglary incurred to the center property, which occurred on or about June 29, 2003. (Executive Session is requested pursuant to Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code – Consultation with Attorney)

Cmr. Velasquez motioned to table Item No. 45. Cmr. Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 46 Discussion and possible action regarding claim by the Sheriff's Department for property damage incurred to a 2000 Ford Taurus LX (Lic. K46-LVB) which occurred on or about May 9, 2003. (Executive Session is requested pursuant to Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code – Consultation with Attorney)

Cmr. Gutierrez motioned to pay claim. Cmr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Mr. Carlos Villarreal, Court Executive Administrator, advised Court that County was found to be at fault and damages were \$1,264.17.

Motion carried 4-0 with Cmr. Vasquez not present.

- Item No. 47 Discussion and possible action regarding claim by the Sheriff's Department for property damage incurred to Unit #378 (2001 Ford F-150) which occurred on or about May 29, 2003. (Executive Session is requested pursuant to Title 5, Subchapter D, Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code – Consultation with Attorney)

Mr. Carlos Villarreal stated that the County was found to be at fault and damages totaled \$1,132.00

Comr. Gutierrez motioned to pay claim. Comr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Comr. Vasquez not present.

Comr. Gutierrez motioned to move into Executive Session and discuss Item No. 23. Comr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Comr. Vasquez not present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (4:33 p.m. to 5:02 p.m.)

Judge Bruni reconvened meeting. He stated that no action was taken while in Executive Session.

Item No. 23 Discussion and possible action regarding the \$1,530,000 Certificates of Participation Interests of the Owners Thereof in Certain Obligations of Webb County, Texas, due under its Lease Purchase Agreement with PBCF Webb Texas, Inc. dated as of July 15, 1997 and any matters incident thereto. [Closed Session requested pursuant to Texas Government Code Title 5, Subchapter D, Sec. 551.071 (Consultation with Attorney)]

Comr. Velasquez motioned to instruct financial advisor to honor debt and take proper action. Comr. Cortez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Comr. Vasquez not present for voting.

Judge Bruni stated that Webb County has always been responsible for their debts and will continue to do so.

Comr. Cortez inquired on date to be set for hearing. Mr. Raul Casso, County Judge's Chief of Staff stated that possibly August 12, 2003 but that he would contact the staff for next available date.

Item No. 49 Adjournment

Comr. Cortez motioned to adjourn meeting. Comr. Velasquez seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-0 with Comr. Vasquez not present.